

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, January 1891, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. THE STRATFORD, Philadelphia, Sunday, January 19, 1891. My darling Alec:

I never did such a thing before as to write to you, or anyone else, twice on the same day but I am going to tonight for a wonder. Thanks for your telegram which Mr. McCurdy shoved under my door some time ago. I do not understand why you are not to be in Rochester Wednesday, but presume that the meeting is postponed.

I want to tell you about my afternoon with Elsie. We called for her at 3 and she ordered the coachman to drive to Memorial Hall, then to Horticultural Hall from which we returned to her house at 6. During all this long drive and long walk through the halls I could not detect a single movement that I could be sure was involuntary. She was quiet and well behaved. Toward the end she grew mischievous and wanted to romp with Daisy, but even when running after her she did not become in the least degree nervous. She forgot herself, and lost the appearance of constraint I noticed this morning, but still there was no twitching. I told her I thought she had said more to me this afternoon than throughout the whole of last year, and though she sometimes talked fast it was always distinctly. She says she reads the papers every day of course and told me of Bancroft's death. Poor old man, I am sorry but surely he must have been willing to go, all his friends have "gone before." She was anxious to have me stop and call on her friends the —?'s but it was too late I may try tomorrow. I hear that John Hubbard's sisters have applied to Dr. Mitchell to know if 2 they may call on her.

Mr. McCurdy wants us to see the casting of his first type tomorrow. I am going to ask Dr. Mitchell if Elsie may see it too. If she can go through all these other places I cannot see why she should not see the foundry. I shall go home tomorrow unless Dr. Mitchell wants

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me to stay, I am so afraid of doing Elsie harm. If this visit leaves no ill effects I will feel very much encouraged, and I do not want to try her too much the first time. Her parlor is not pretty, I am going to buy her one or two things to make it more educative of her sense of beauty. If you want to bring her anything let it be for her room. I brought her a little pearl pin because I did not want to come empty handed and I had not time to get anything else. I thought a travelling clock, and Tiffany showed me some for \$20. and I thought I would look at Star's. Then I looked at water-colors and found one quite pretty for \$25. and decided that she would prefer the clock, so went on to Star's. There they told me that it was impossible to make good timekeepers under \$45. which I thought too dear. By this time it was too late to go anywhere else so I got the pin for \$14.00. It will always be pretty for her, but the water-color or clock would have been better now.

It is late, I have staid up long reading the papers, so Goodnight.

As ever yours,